

CHARLES JAMES LANMAN.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 340.]

MARCH 19, 1860.

Mr. WALTON, from the Committee on Claims, made the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the petition of Charles James Lanman, have considered the same, and respectfully report :*

That the petitioner claims compensation for transportation of public money to a safe place of deposit, and for office rent and clerk hire while he was receiver at Monroe, Michigan, from 1823 to 1831. The facts are set forth in a report made by Mr. Maynard, June 7, 1858, and herewith submitted. Had the transportation of the money been ordered by the Secretary of the Treasury, the claim could have been audited and discharged at the time. It appears that the service was necessary ; that the Secretary was so apprised, and that it was performed therefore with his implied approval or assent. An allowance was made to Mr. Lanman's successor for the same service, and Lanman is clearly entitled to the same rate of commission, at least, for a service more arduous, and even dangerous.

Your committee reject the general claim for "clerk service," and allow only for *extra service*, and have audited the claim according to the regulations of the Treasury Department under the laws existing at the time of Lanman's service ; according also to the allowance made to Lanman's successor, and consistent with the act of August 18, 1856, which provides that similar allowances may now be made, subject to the approval of Congress "for additional clerical services and extraordinary expenses." The sum allowed is reasonable, and the only objection made by any member of the committee is that it is not sufficiently large. The committee therefore report the accompanying bill for \$2,578 81, and recommend its passage.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, *June 7, 1858.*

Mr. MAYNARD, from the Committee on Claims, submitted the following report :

*The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the petition of Charles James Lanman, asking compensation for clerk hire, rent, &c., have had the same under consideration, and beg to report:*

“The memorialist, Charles James Lanman, was receiver of public moneys at Monroe, Michigan, from 1823 to 1831—a period of nearly eight years—at an annual salary of \$500, and a commission of one per cent. on the amount received for land. It is shown that during the time he rented and occupied an office for the transaction of public business, and employed such assistance as, at times, the business of the office required. It is further shown that at that time the country was new and sparsely populated, and that it was unsafe for any considerable amount of money, either public or private, to be allowed to accumulate at one point; that the memorialist deemed it unsafe that any large amount of public money should accumulate in his hands, both for his own security as receiver of public moneys as well as that of the government; at his own cost and trouble, and at great expense and considerable risk, transported all the public funds in his hands to Detroit, distant from Monroe about forty miles, through a wilderness country, over roads bad and at times almost impassable. At Detroit he deposited the moneys specially for safe-keeping in the vaults of the bank of Michigan. The state of the country at that time rendered it obviously necessary that these transactions should be kept secret from all save a few confidential friends. These facts fully appear from the testimony of General Levi S. Humphrey, then register of the land office, and are strongly corroborated by General Cass, who, under date of February 18, 1858, says: ‘I believe Colonel Lanman was a faithful officer; and, from the situation of the country at the time to which he refers, I believe it was safest to have the public moneys deposited at Detroit, and I know there was considerable expense and some risk in thus depositing them.’

“From the facts thus stated it will be manifest that the memorialist was very inadequately compensated for expenses and trouble, and labor and risk beyond the ordinary range of his official duties; and so the government appears to have thought, for his successor (Mr. D. B. Miller) was paid, in addition to his salary and commissions, percentage and travelling expenses for transporting his money from Monroe to Detroit; also an allowance for clerk’s hire, and some years after the close of his office the further sum of \$1,443 74. The extent of business transacted by the memorialist while in office will appear to some extent from the magnitude of his receipts, varying from \$9,675 79, the lowest sum received in any one year, to \$96,360 39, the highest, amounting in all to the sum of \$244,492 92, all of which, General Humphrey testifies, was faithfully paid over and accounted for at the treasury.”